

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended herein to recite that the double-sided pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet has a thickness of not more than 50 μm . Support for the Amendment is found, for example, on page 51, lines 1-4. No new matter is presented. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-6 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

I. Objection to the Specification

Box 9 is checked on the Office Action Summary sheet indicating that the specification is objected to by the Examiner. However, this appears to be an error since the Examiner does not specifically indicate any errors or reasons for objecting to the specification in the body of the Action. Applicants respectfully request clarification of this matter in the next Action.

II. Priority Document

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority, but indicates that a copy of the certified priority document has not been received. Applicants note that the certified copy of the priority document was filed on August 17, 2004 and is scanned in the Image File Wrapper (IFW) for this application on the PTO's PAIR website. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit a copy of the list of Image File Wrapper contents showing that the Foreign Priority papers were received on August 17, 2004, a copy of the Submission of Priority Document and the cover page of the certified copy of JP 2003-019992, and a copy of the Official date-stamped receipt indicating receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the PTO on August 17, 2004. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request formal acknowledgement of receipt of the certified copy of the priority application, JP 2003-019992, in the next Action.

III. Response to Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, because the specification is allegedly nonenabling for one of ordinary skill in the art to make the invention commensurate in scope with the claims. Specifically, the Examiner states that the elements of adhesive article thickness and optical isotropy are described as being critical to the claimed invention but the thickness element is not recited in the claims and the specification does not appear to teach how the recited optical isotropy is attained for the claimed genus in an enabling manner. Further, the Examiner asserts that the first two examples in the specification achieve desired optical characteristics but it is not clear what elements are found in these examples that are different from the remaining examples and from the comparative examples.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is amended to recite the thickness of the double-sided pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet of not more than 50 μm as disclosed in the specification on page 51, thereby obviating this grounds for rejection.

With respect to the manner of achieving optical isotropy, Applicants refer to the specification at page 12, lines 1-5 which indicates that the desired optical isotropic properties can be attained by enhancing transparency of all of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layers. Further it is disclosed at page 32, line 15 to page 33, line 2, that the double-sided pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet desirably has a transparency such that the total luminous transmittance in the visible wavelength light region is 85% or more and that the haze should be within the range of not more than 2%. Further, Applicants submit that in the present invention, the optical isotropy can be achieved by having no substrate coating, which is shown in the Examples and Comparative Examples. Therefore, in view of the nature of the invention, state

of the art, the level of skill and knowledge available in the art and the guidance direction and examples provided in the specification, the disclosure of the present application is sufficiently enabling for one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the invention without undue experimentation.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

IV. Response to Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Kishioka et al (US 2002/0098352A1) individually or in view of JP 07-105781

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over US '352 to Kishioka individually or in view of JP-105781.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The double-sided pressures-sensitive adhesive sheet according to the present invention is constituted such that it is repeatedly peelable against at least one surface of the touch panel and the display surface of the display device. Therefore, the present invention is characterized in that the sheet has at least two pressure-sensitive adhesive layers. Further, in order to realize the optical isotropy as the double-sided pressure sensitive adhesive sheet, the present invention is characterized in that the sheet has no substrate. The cited references are silent as to this feature of the invention. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify or combine the references with a reasonable expectation of success of achieving the claimed invention.

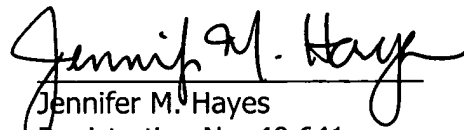
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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